AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The news item has been seen. Minor gravitational anomaly exists in most of the launch sites in the world including Sriharikota. The magnitude of gravitation force anomalies which is one-twenty-thousandth of a 'g' is negligibly small to affect the rocket trajectories which are designed to take off against the full gravitational force and reach a velocity of over 7 5 km/second Such an anomaly can at best affect the final velocity by 1 metre/second in the value of 7.5 km/second. There is no question of ASLV flights failing due to the minor gravitational anomalies at Sriharikota.

Howitzer Gun deal with Bofors

1550. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Indian Express dated 17th September, 1988 referring to the statement appearing in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Bofors regarding the term of credit for Howitzer gun deal by the President of Swedish Export Credit Board, Mr. Harry Schein; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press report in question is inaccurate.

Memorandum submitted by employees of Indian Red Cross Society

1551 SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a memorandum submitted to the President of the Delhi Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society recently by its employees, gross irregularities and malpractices in the organisation have been alleged;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry if any, made by Government into the allegations and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) According to the information received from the Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, no such memorandum has been submitted to the President of the Delhi branch of the Indian Red Cross Society.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Crash on AN-32 aircraft near Kanpur

1552. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an AN-32 aircraft of Air Research Centre crashed recently near Shivrajpur in Kanpur district killing all the occupants;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the accident and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) An AN-32 aircraft, on a routine flight from Agra to Bhubaneswar, crashed about 21 nautical miles north of Kanpur on 4-11-88 at approximately 1525 hrs.

(c) A Court of Enquiry has been ordered into the accident, which is in progress.

Construction of Atomic Power Plants

1553. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many developed and developing countries of the world have of late started discouraging the construction work of atomic projects in their countries;

(b) if so, what is the detailed information in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering to bring a change in the policy in this direction; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) There is a general trend in reduced ordering of nuclear power plants in certain developed countries.

(b) Each country has its own reasons such as staturation in demand, public opposition, aftermath of Chernobyl, nonavailability of funds, tighter regulatory measures or easy access to coal, oil or hydroelectric power.

(c) and (d) Nuclear power constitutes at present a small percentage (3%) of the total electricity production of the country and in a large country like India where coal is available only in certain regions an optimal mix of thermal, hydro and nuclear power is needed for proper planning of generation of electricity in an economical manner.

Report of the Committee on ASLV

1554. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Report of the Committee on fault analysis of ASLV; and

(b) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Report of the Committees on fault analysis of ASLV are yet to be received and the actions to be taken will depend upon the Committees' recommendation and further analysis.

Couples protected by Family Planning Methods

1555. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of couples in the reproductive age group protected by family planning methods has reached an all time high in the country during 1987-88;

(b) if so, what was the total number of couples which opted for family planning in 1987-88 and to what extent it was more in comparison to the earlier years; and

(c) what are the States where the performance of the family planning methods have improved and what are the other steps being taken to improve family planning methods further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The